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A cobblestone

A 29 year old Afro-Caribbean man presented with a four month history of episodic, painful swelling of the prepuce occurring during penile erection. He was employed as a male stripper and his stage act culminated in a display of his erect phallus. Immediately before a performance he would produce an erection by masturbation and ligate the base of the penis with a rubber band to prevent detumescence. The first episode of preputial swelling occurred after his show unexpectedly over-ran by several minutes, delaying release of the ligature.

He described the swelling as resembling a tense, fluid-filled ring around the base of the glans penis; the swelling subsided after removal of the ligature allowed detumescence, leaving small linear fissures in the foreskin. Since this initial episode, he had suffered from

intermittent preputial swelling not only at work but also after sexual intercourse with his female partner.

On examination the only abnormal physical finding was a slightly tight prepuce. There was no evidence of lichen sclerosus of the penis and routine investigations excluded sexually transmitted infections.

The patient's history was consistent with recurrent paraphimosis and we informed him that circumcision was advisable, particularly as he wished to continue working as a stripper. In men who are predisposed to paraphimosis, delayed penile detumescence as described in this case may precipitate the problem. Paraphimosis may, therefore, be added to the list of occupational health hazards.

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